

Serial No. 10/770,928, filed 2/3/04

Amendments to Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior revisions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) An axle assembly comprising:

a tubular member having an outer wall and an interior cavity, an exterior surface of said outer wall including defining a first interlocking feature; and

an axle component mounting member arranged on a portion of said exterior surface outer wall, said axle component mounting member including a second interlocking feature coacting with said first interlocking feature to affix said axle component mounting member and tubular member to one another.

11. (Currently Amended) The axle assembly according to claim 10, wherein said axle component mounting member is a bearing shoulder sleeve.12. (Currently Amended) The axle assembly according to claim 10, wherein said axle component mounting member is a brake flange.13. (Currently Amended) The axle assembly according to claim 10, further including a material disposed between said portion of said outer wall exterior surface and said axle component mounting member.14. (Currently Amended) The axle assembly according to claim 10, wherein said interlocking features include complimentary splines.

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15. (Currently Amended) The axle assembly according to claim 10, wherein said second interlocking feature is a hole and said first interlocking feature is a protrusion extending into said hole.

16. (Currently Amended) The axle assembly according to claim 10, wherein said axle component mounting member includes a generally concave annular surface in engagement with said exterior surface portion of said tubular member.

17. (New) The axle assembly according to claim 10, wherein said outer wall is continuous and extends beyond said axle component mounting member.

18. (New) The axle assembly according to claim 10, wherein said tubular member extends along an axis, said axle component mounting member having an inner bore received on said exterior surface, said inner bore being non-cylindrical, about said axis, and a portion of said exterior surface receiving said axle component mounting member also being non-cylindrical about said axis.

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